Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 081495 ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 PM-05 INRE-00 NSCE-00 L-03 /048 R

DRAFTED BY EA:RBOAKLEY:KA APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE EA/PHL:BAFLECK

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O 300203Z MAR 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS

- 1. BASED UPON AMBASSADOR NEWSOM'S LATEST ROUND OF CONVERSATIONS AND OTHER REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED ABOUT UNUSUALLY GREAT GOP SENSITIVITIES TO ALLEGED UNITED STATES OFFICIAL "INTERFERENCE" IN THE APRIL 7 ELECTIONS, WE BELIEVE EMBASSY AND CONSULATE OFFICERS SHOULD ADOPT A VERY LOW PROFILE WITH RESPECT TO CANDIDATES AND THE ELECTION PROCESS UNTIL ELECTION DAY.
- 2. EMBASSY AND CONSULATE REPORTING ON THE ELECTORAL SITUATION IN MANILA AND ELSEWHERE HAS BEEN EXCELLENT AND PROVIDES THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION NECESSARY TO INTERPRET THE RESULTS WHEN THEY ARE KNOWN. TALKS WITH VARIOUS CANDIDATES AND THOSE AFFILIATED WITH THEM HAVE ALSO BEEN USEFUL NOT ONLY IN PROVIDING PERSPECTIVE BUT IN MAINTAINING A CONSISTENT POLICY TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS. HOWEVER, OVER THE NEXT WEEK SUCH CONTACTS WILL TEND INCREASINGLY TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 081495

SEEN BY THE GOP AND ITS OPPONENTS AS INDICATING USG POLITICAL PREFERENCES RATHER THAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN.

3. EMBASSY WILL BE THE BEST JUDGE OF HOW TO HANDLE ISSUE OF REPORTING ON ACTUAL CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS ON APRIL 7 IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PROVIDE AN INFORMED ACCOUNT OF WHAT GOES ON BUT NOT GIVING APPEARANCE THAT USG IS PLAYING A MORE

ACTIVE, DIRECT ROLE IN	I MONITORING ELECTIONS THAN OTHER
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS	COOPER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
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Subject: PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, RP

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